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"Paklay owes its importance to its situation on the Mekong at the extremity of the shortest route from the Menam. In the neighbourhood there is a good deal of teak which might be advantageously exploited. Wild animals abound, stags and oxen being killed for their antlers and horns. Some years ago, I am told, a tapir was killed near here, but native information is so little to be trusted that no confidence can be put in this story, and I have never before heard it said, moreover, that tapirs come so high up."

000 to a point where it is perfectly docile.

231 435 The sale price of elephants varies with their size, their sex, their age, and according to whether or not they have tusks and according to the quality and size of these latter. It also varies with the region.

At Outha'i-Thani (Luang-Prabang) an elephant costs from 1,500 to 3,000 francs, and the cost is about the same at Vien-Tiane. In Lower Laos the price varies from 750 to 1,200 francs.

When an elephant dies it still leaves highly valuable remains, especially ivory.

• 237 438 435 1. Ivory.

A hundred kilograms of ivory sells for 1,800 francs at Outha'-Thani (Luang-Prabang), from 935 to 1,770 francs in Nong-Khay, from 750 to 1,250 francs in Song-Khone, from 750 to 1,670 francs in Saravane, from 1,000 to 1,670 francs in Bassac and from 1,500 to 1,670 francs in Khong, Stung-Treng and Attopeu. Its average cost in Cholen (Cochinchina) is 2,500 francs per hundred kilograms.

2. Bones.

The price of elephant bones is generally from 12 francs 50 centimes to 15 francs per hundred kilograms.

3. Hides.

Elephant hides cost from 60 to 70 francs per hundred kilograms.

The remains of other elephants furnish the markets of Laos with the following products: rhinoceros horns and hides, horns and hides from buffalo and oxen, horns and hides from all the deer tribe, hides, talons and bones from the cat family, bear and otter pelts, scales from anteaters, tortoises and caymans, etc. To this list should be added snake venom, bear gall and soft hartshorn, which are regarded as specific remedies against certain diseases.

The prices of some of these products are as follows:

Rhinoceros horns	111 to 137 francs per kilogram
Rhinoceros hides	60 to 70 francs per 100 kilograms
Soft hartshorn	1,666 to 2,200 francs per 100 kilogram or 18 to 40 francs per pair
[349] Horns of stags, elk and bucks (hard)	25 to 75 francs per 100 kilograms
Hides of stags, elk, bucks, goats	37 to 83 " " " "
Wild buffalo horns	50 to 60 " " " "
Wild buffalo hides	46 to 50 " " " "
Ox horns	50 to 58 " " " "

Ox hides	58 to 65 francs per 100 kilograms
Bones of tigers and other cats	58 to 75 " " " "
Pelts of tigers, panthers and other large cats	3 francs to 12 francs and 50 centimes apiece
Anteater scales (without the skin)	50 to 72 francs per 100 kilograms
Anteater hides (with scales)	46 to 50 " " " "
Skins of various monkeys	83 to 88 " " " "
Tortoise shells	37 francs and 50 centimes per 100 kilograms.

Fishing, preserved fish

Laos, with its extensive hydrological network and its watercourses of all sizes, is a fishing land par excellence. We have already noted the chief varieties of fish which populate its rivers, and have seen that most of them are represented by large-sized specimens.

Since the produce of fishing makes a considerable contribution to the food supply of the inhabitants, it has been necessary to create devices and combine various means for capturing this prey.

The methods, primitive at first, have been increasingly perfected, and each one has been modified so that it is adapted to some particular feature either of the watercourses or of the fish.

The devices used today are wholly made by the inhabitants. They vary greatly in form and--the fact is worth noting--are much like those used in Europe. Indeed, the floating line is common, but in its most rudimentary form, with a thorn for a hook and then the ground-line and long-line. There are also nets in great abundance, and they are identical with the ones found among our fishermen. The most common ones are the seine, the cast-net, the square dipping-net, the shrimping-net, the hoop-net, the landing-net and the large trammel. All this equipment is supplemented with bottles, [350] single and double bow-nets and traps. The Laotians also build large barrages across watercourses and provide them with corridors leading to bow-nets or hoop-nets.

Hiding places in the form of fixed huts on the watercourses are used for spear fishing. A light in these huts attracts the fish and the native, who is armed with a hardwood fork, spears it as soon as it comes within range. [Illustration here]